

The bipartisan  
**Civic Duty Act**

By U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.)

*Because your time isn't any less valuable than your elected leaders'.*

**An unfair policy...**

A little-noticed provision was tucked into the *Legislative Branch Appropriations Act* for fiscal year 1991. It reads as follows:

*“Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State or local law, no elected official of the legislative branch of the United State Government shall be required to serve on a grand or petit jury, convened by any Federal, State or local court, whether such service is requested by judicial summons or by some other means of compulsion.”*

Thanks to that provision, under current law, members of Congress are permitted to serve on juries—and many have been willing to do so over the past two-and-a-half decades—but they are given an option to be excused that their constituents don't have.

**... a simple solution:**

U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill and Jeff Flake have now introduced the bipartisan *Civic Duty Act*, which would repeal that statutory exemption from jury duty for all members of Congress.

This one-sentence bill would remove that exemption and require members to find time in their schedules to serve on juries alongside their constituents.

**A BILL**

To repeal the jury duty exemption of elected officials of  
the legislative branch.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Civic Duty Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF JURY DUTY EXEMPTION FOR LEGISLA-**  
6 **TIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS.**

7 Section 310 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations  
8 Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 30a) is repealed.]